

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
TOPIC	Winter Exercise of the 18th Mecz Div at the Wittstock Training Grounds		
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EVALUATION		PLACE OBTAINED	25X1
DATE OF CONTENT			25X1
DATE OBTAINED		DATE PREPARED	30 March 1955 25X1
REFERENCES			25X1
PAGES	1	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	25X1
REMARKS			25X1
	This is UNEVALUATED Information		25X1

On 17 and 18 March 1955, troops were unloaded at the Wittstock and Dranse rail stations. Columns including 100-mm AT guns, 57-mm AT guns, AA guns, armored scout cars, trucks, tank trucks and a new gun similar to a rocket launcher on a two-wheel gun mount went from Wittstock toward Randow. Trucks were seen. The units presumably assembled in the Walkmuhle area about 3 km northeast of Dranse. At 0845 on 19 March, a train carrying 15 AA guns, 29 trucks and 2 of the above-mentioned new guns passed through the Wittstock railroad station and proceeded toward Dossow. At 1245, a train carrying 15 AA guns and an undetermined number of trucks arrived at the station. During the nights of 17 through 20 March, the noise of shipments which passed through Wittstock and proceeded toward Dranse was continually heard. At 0730 on 20 March, no shipments were observed at the Wittstock railroad station and at the stations of the railroad line to Berlin. It was learned that the units had come from Perleberg and Ludwigslust; elements which were detrained in Wittstock departed toward Kyritz, additional units were detrained in Fretzdorf, and that the units were to stay in the area for 10 days. Camp Schweinrich was occupied as previously by a small rear detail.

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Comment. Previous reports indicated that artillery units including elements of the 4th Gds Arty Brig from Schwerin arrived in the Wittstock area by road and rail between 12 and 15 March. According to the present report, units of the 18th Mecz Div transferred to the Wittstock training grounds between 17 and 19 March where a winter exercise of the division reinforced by corps troops of the IX Mtz Rifle Corps apparently started on 18 March. The bulk of the units probably assembled in the northern portion of the training grounds. The elements detrained in Fretzdorf and those which left toward Kyritz may have represented the enemy force. The new gun on two-wheel gun mount is assumed to be a recoilless rocket launcher which was observed in the Soviet Zone of Germany several times during the last 2 years. No details on the weapon are available.

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